

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted in favor of House Joint Resolution 79, the flag amendment.

## RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF FRANKLIN, PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Franklin, PA, on the bi-centennial celebration of this community. It is an honor and a privilege to commemorate the residents of Franklin as they embark on their third century.

Deep in the oil region of Pennsylvania, Franklin is a community with spirit. Located in Venango County on the banks of the Allegheny River, there is a town full of beauty, natural resources, industry and historic significance. From the time of George Washington and the French and Indian War, this tract of land served to protect and enhance the lives of its inhabitants.

There was little activity until Andrew Ellicott built a fort to honor Benjamin Franklin. Once established as a fortification, Fort Franklin quickly grew into a village and subsequently into the prosperous city it is today. Franklin also offers stability to the community, as the seat of county government for more than 150 years.

Called the Victorian City, Franklin takes pride in the rich heritage established by the first pioneer settlers, and the industrial revolutionaries who drilled the first oil well. It is my pleasure to honor these first residents of Franklin for their achievements and for setting the standard of excellence that the community values today.

## EDINBURG, TEXAS, NAMED ALL-AMERICAN CITY

**HON. E de la GARZA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, at its ceremony in Cleveland this past weekend, the National Civic League announced it had selected the city of Edinburg, TX, as an all-American city for 1995. A finalist for the award 27 years ago, Edinburg is one of only 10 communities nationwide named by the League—and is, in fact, the only Texas town to be selected.

Chosen from 145 original entries, communities were evaluated on how well they addressed such problems as youth violence, affordable housing and downtown revitalization through grass-roots activism and collaborative problem solving. "Responding to unacceptable high rates of youth crime and violence, citizens, city agencies and service groups initiated a comprehensive package of crime pre-

vention, anti-drug, mental health, education, recreation and employment programs," the awards announcement for Edinburg said.

This recognition is certainly a testimony to Edinburg Mayor Joe Ochoa, to the city commissioners Roy Pena, Pete Rodriguez, Toribio Palacios, and Ofelia De Los Santos, and to the people of Edinburg who have joined together to make their city such an outstanding community. It is truly a great honor.

At the awards ceremony Civic League Chairman John Gardner commented there is a paralysis and pessimism that infects too much of the country today, and that it is communities such as Edinburg which demonstrate the grassroots activism, can-do spirit and creative foresight needed to renew our country. I fully share those sentiments. Indeed, I think I speak for all of us in south Texas when I say how proud we are.

Congratulations.

## INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will help to address some very serious ambiguities currently found in the tax code relating to the availability of pension plans for Indian tribal governments and their employees.

Under current law, there are no salary deferred pension plans for Indian tribal governments and their employees. As far as we can tell, Indian tribal governments are one of only a few employers which do not have such plans available to them. Further aggravating matters, several tribes have purchased plans provided for under section 403 (b) of the Code from insurance companies, only later to find that such plans were not intended for their use. Those retirement funds, affecting several tribes and thousands of tribal employees, are now in jeopardy.

One of the chief reasons individuals elect to work for an employer is based on a strong employee benefits package. Although many tribes are now competitive in the area of salary and health care the laws of the Federal Government have prohibited tribes from offering any form of salary reduction pension plan—one of the most sought after benefits offered to prospective employees. This is a basic matter of equity.

The proposal would provide that annuity contracts purchased by employees of Indian tribal governments qualify under section 403 (b) as tax-sheltered annuities. The Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that this proposal would have a negligible revenue effect on Federal fiscal year budget receipts.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation today and I ask for the consideration of my colleagues.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION

**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 1995*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, In a declaration issued on June 7 in Prague, participants at the CIVITAS PRAGUE 1995 conference pledged to create an international network to help make civic education a higher priority on the agendas of participating nations as well as on the international agenda.

The conference was one of the largest international gatherings of educators and representatives of the public and private sectors supporting civic education ever held. Four hundred twenty-five representatives from 52 nations participated. The conference was sponsored by 36 civic education organizations from North America, Eastern and Western Europe, and the former Soviet Union.

The declaration by CIVITAS participants asserts that civic education is essential for developing the support required for the establishment and maintenance of stable democratic institutions, economic development, national security, and for overcoming destructive religious and ethnic conflicts. The declaration also argues that civic education should have a more prominent place in the programs of all government and international organizations.

The text of the CIVITAS declaration follows. I urge my fellow Members to join me in supporting the declaration and in giving greater recognition to the need to improve civic education for students in the United States and in other nations throughout the world.

On June 2-6, 1995, representatives from fifty-two countries met in Prague at one of the largest international meetings on civic education ever held. The following is a declaration adopted by the participants. A list of the individual signers is available on CIVNET.

The wave of change toward democracy and the open economy that swept the world at the beginning of this decade has slowed, and, in some respects, even turned around. Religious and ethnic intolerance; abuses of human rights; cynicism toward politics and government; corruption, crime and violence; ignorance, apathy and irresponsibility—all represent growing challenges to freedom, the marketplace, democratic government, and the rule of law.

All this makes clear how central knowledge, skills, and democratic values are to building and sustaining democratic societies that are respectful of human rights and cultural diversity. Once again, we see the importance of education which empowers citizens to participate competently and responsibly in their society.

Despite great differences in the more than fifty countries represented among us, we find many similarities in the challenges we face in our civic life. These challenges exist not only in the countries represented here; they also exist in other parts of the world, and in all aspects of social, economic, and political life. People involved in civic education have much to learn from one another.

It is time again to recognize the crucial role that civic education plays in many areas of concern to the International community: Shared democratic values, and institutions that reflect these values, are the necessary foundation for national and international security and stability; the breakup of Cold War blocs, while bringing much good, has also